

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 MC-02 NSCE-00 ACDA-05

OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01

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O R 291225Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1572

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AEMBASSY ROME 1380

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION2 OF 2 COPENHAGEN 2808

9. CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO WHAT PRIMIN TERMED AS
OPTIMISTIC DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE AND PORTUGAL. SECDEF AGREED
BUT STESSED THAT FROM MILITARY POINT OF VIEW, REAL DANGER LAY
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IN CENTRAL EUROPE. HE WENT ON TO NOTE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF
90,000 TROOPS IN EAST GERMANY AND POLAND, EXPLAINING THAT
SOVIET INTENT IS TO BUILD UP FORCES TO POINT WHERE BUNDESWEHR
CAN EASILY BE CONTROLLED. THEREFORE, SECRETARY SAID, IT IS

VITAL THAT WEST MAINTAIN ITS DEFENSES AND NOT ALLOW WARSAW PACT MILITARY POWER TO REMAIN UNMATCHED. IF SOVIETS SEE THAT WEST IS LOWERING DEFENSES, WESTERN MBFR NEGOTIATION POSITION WILL BE WEAKENED. SECDEF WENT ON TO OBSERVE THAT THE RELATIVE WEIGHT OF THE DEFENSE BURDEN IS INCREASINGLY BEING BORNE BY FRG, INASMUCH AS OTHERS ARE NOT DOING THEIR SHARE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS REALLY POSED MORE OF A PROBLEM FOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAN IT DID FOR USG.

10. PRIMIN THEN EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT WEST WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR ALL POSSIBILITIES LEADING TOWARDS DETENTE, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED POSSIBLE PITFALLS IN SO DOING. SECDEF REPLIED THAT WESTERN LEADERS HAD POLITICAL AND MORAL OBLIGATIONS TO THEIR PEOPLES TO CONTINUE PRESSING FOR DETENTE. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT SOVIETS HAD TO SHOW SOME SIGNS OF POSITIVE REACTION ON THEIR PART NOT ONLY EXTERNALLY BUT INTERNALLY AS WELL. WHATEVER PROGRESS IS MADE TOWARD DETENTE, THE BALANCE OF POWER MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO SHIFT TO THE EAST.

11. IN THIS REGARD, JORGENSEN REFERRED TO DISCUSSIONS HE HAD HELD IN HELSINKI WITH HONECKER OF DDR. HONECKER HAD CHARACTERIZED BALTIC AS "SEA OF PEACE". JORGENSEN HAD AGREED WITH THIS TERMINOLOGY BUT REMINDED HIM THAT CONSTANT MILITARY MANEUVERS WITH PLANES AND LANDING CRAFT BY DDR NAVY ENROACHING ON DANISH TERRITORY DID NOT SEEM TO REFLECT "SEA OF PEACE" MENTALITY. MOD MOLLER THEN INTERJECTED REMARK THAT DDR NAVY KEPT COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO DANISH TERRITORY AND HAD BEEN OBSERVED FOLLOWING DANISH SHIPS THREE TIMES IN PAST WEEK.

12. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER SAID THIS WAS TYPICAL OF PROBLEMS WEST HAD IN NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS WITH EAST. SALT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS - WHERE SOVIETS HAD RESPECTED AGREEMENT BUT NEVERTHELESS CONTINUED TO PROBE FOR WEAK POINTS. HE SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT DDR PRESSURES BUT WAS NOT SURPRISED AS THIS WAS PART OF GENERAL PATTERN. AT THIS POINT MOD MOLLER REFERRED TO SEPTEMBER 11 SPEECH BY HONECKER WHICH TOOK HARD CONFIDENTIAL

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LINE AND SEEMED TO BE AT ODDS WITH SPIRIT OF HELSINKI. (TEXT WILL BE CABLED SEPARATELY.)

13. PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN THEN RAISED THE OLD QUESTION OF A BRIDGE BETWEEN FUNEN AND ZEALAND SPANNING THE GREAT BELT (THE ONLY DEEP-PASSAGE FROM THE BALTIC TO THE NORTH SEA). HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WILL BE SOME SERIOUS HURDLES TO OVERCOME THE DANISH PARLIAMENT (FOLKETING) WOULD SOON APPROVE ITS CONSTRUCTION. JORGENSEN RECALLED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE CONTINUED THEIR OBJECTION TO THE BRIDGE AND WENT ON TO NOTE THAT, NORMALLY, DENMARK HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BUT THAT ONE HAD ALWAYS TO BE CAREFUL. SECDEF REPLIED THAT IF SOVIETS RESPECT MILITARY POSTURE OF WEST,

THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM. HOWEVER, GREATEST CONCERN WAS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS TAKES OVER IN USSR. THOSE ABOUT TO RETIRE MAINTAIN SINCERE RESPECT AND FEAR FOR GERMANY, BUT YOUNGER GROUP MIGHT BE MORE TEMPTED TO EXPLOIT THE NEWLY-ACQUIRED SOVIET MILITARY POTENTIAL AND, THEREFORE, WEST MUST BE WARY INDEED.

14. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH PRIMIN THANKING SCHLESINGER FOR HIS VISIT AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO DENMARK AGAIN FOR LONGER PERIOD. PRIMIN THEN ACCOMPANIED SECDEF TO FOLKETING FOR LATTER'S SPEECH.
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